

From: editor@mountainwestnews.org
To: [Smith, Paula](#)
Subject: [SPAM] Mountain West News Daily Newsletter
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 11:56:00 AM

Hell Creek Area

Photo courtesy of Rick and Susie
Graetz

[Go to web site](#)

Mountain West News is a
program of the
O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at
The University of Montana

**Tuesday,
Aug. 19, 2014**

Produced by Shellie Nelson, MW News Editor

Editor's notes:

In the **Rockies today**, Oregon declined to approve a coal-export terminal planned to expedite exports of coal from Montana and Wyoming, a panel is selected to investigate a tailings pond breach at the Mount Polley Mine in British Columbia, and drones are banned in two national parks and two national monuments in Utah.

Ambre Energy officials called the decision of the Oregon State Lands Board a "political" one and said that they will continue to pursue their plan for a coal-export terminal that would load coal brought in by rail to Boardman on barges and moved via the Columbia River to Port of St. Helens, where it would then be loaded onto oceangoing freighters.

British Columbia Mines Minister Bill Bennett named three engineers to independently review the Mount Polley Mine's tailings pond breach; and on Monday, the superintendent of the Arches and Canyonlands national parks and the Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments formally banned the use of drones in those areas.

Also in the news, Amtrak's Empire Builder is foundering due to delays caused by an increase of oil and freight on the rail lines between Chicago and Seattle and Portland, new mountain pine beetle research is underway in Alberta and Utah is abuzz with new beekeepers who report a decrease in overwinter deaths in their hives.

In Beyond the region, Canada releases the results of its investigation into the July 2013 train derailment disaster in a small Quebec community; a massive solar power installation in California is frying birds on the wing; and a Nevada company is perfecting a system to use municipal waste to feed algae to make diesel fuel that has a byproduct of clean water.

Quote of the day:

"I'm not opposed to listing and I'm not an advocate of listing. I'm an advocate of using the best science possible to inform a decision. They relied on a well-informed six-year process and they came to the conclusion that listing was warranted. Now they looked at it again and say new information suggests it's not warranted. And that's just not true. There is no new information. Not an ounce of new information was injected into the process. They just chose to take opinions

[Mountain West Voices](#)

[On the Bookshelf](#)

[Mountain West Perspectives](#)

[A Look Ahead](#)

On the Bookshelf

Barbara Theroux of Fact & Fiction
reviews [Grizzlies on my mind](#)

Mountain West Perspectives

New [report highlights opportunities in the
Colorado River Basin](#)

Mountain West Voices

Hear the stories of the Mountain West:

- [MY ROAD DOG.](#)
[MY FAMILY:](#)
8/13/2014: [Thoughts on
Homelessness](#)
7/9/2014: [How a Bronx Kid
Ended Up In
Montana](#)
7/2/2014: [It Can Happen to
Anyone: A
Perspective on
Homelessness](#)
6/18/2014: [Music Is A
Wonderful Friend](#)
5/30/2014: [The Biggest Win](#)

Major Funders:

from people who oppose listing and accept them."

Jeff Copeland, a former U.S. Forest Service biologist who has studied wolverines for decades, responding to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to withdraw its petition to protect wolverines](#).
- Flathead Beacon

Rockies today

[Oregon denies Ambre Energy's application for coal-export terminal](#)

Officials of Australia-based Ambre Energy said they intend to continue to pursue the proposal to build a coal-export terminal in Oregon after the state denied its application to ship coal brought in by rail from Montana and Wyoming down the Columbia River from Boardman to the Port of St. Helens, where it would be offloaded onto oceangoing freighters.

Montana Standard (AP); August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Drones banned in national parks, monuments in Utah](#)

The use of unmanned aircraft in Arches and Canyonlands parks as well as Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments in Utah was formally banned Monday, amid an increase in the use of drones by photographers and videographers and an increase in complaints about such use.

Salt Lake Tribune; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[B.C. selects 3 to investigate Mount Polley Mine tailings pond breach](#)

To serve on the independent panel to investigate the collapse of a tailings impoundment at the Mount Polley Mine, British Columbia Mines Minister Bill Bennett named Steven Vick, an engineering consultant who investigated a tailings pond breach in Guyana; Norbert Morgenstern, a University of Alberta engineering professor emeritus who has worked on more than 140 dam projects; and Dirk van Zyl, a University of B.C. engineering professor with three decades of experience in teaching, researching and consulting on earthen dams and tailings impoundments.

Vancouver Sun; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[U. of Alberta mountain pine beetle research to focus on flight capability](#)

Mountain pine beetle infestations have affected 25 percent of Alberta's pine trees, and Maya Evenden, a professor of biological sciences at the University of Alberta is launching a new study that will focus on the flight capability of the beetles, which will help improve projections on where they might move next.

Calgary Herald (Edmonton Journal); August 13

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Cabela's delivers economic boost to Colorado city as projected](#)

A year after Cabela's opened its 90,000-square-foot outdoor gear store in Thornton, sales and use tax revenue for the Colorado city is up 10 percent, and new stores and housing developments are popping up around the store.

Denver Post; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Freight bottlenecks hamstring Amtrak's Empire Builder](#)

Eighty-five years after the Great Northern Railway's premier passenger service launched between Chicago and Seattle and Portland, and five years after Amtrak's Empire Builder earned the railroad system's top honors for on-time service, the Empire Builder has been manhandled by rail congestion caused by a marked increase in the movement of oil and other freight by rail.

Flathead Beacon; August 13

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Idaho U.S. senators meet with wood-stove manufacturer](#)

U.S. Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch introduced the Secret Science Reform Act, which prohibits the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from proposing or enacting legislation based on science that is not made available to the public or is not reproducible, and on Monday, Sen. Crapo met with Kuma Stoves officials to discuss how the legislation may affect their wood-stove manufacturing business, which is subject to new emissions standards for their product.

Coeur d'Alene Press; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Utah agriculture survey finds fewer bee losses last winter](#)

A Utah Department of Agriculture and Food survey found that there's a growing interest in beekeeping in the Beehive State, with 52 of the 330 respondents to the 2012-2013 overwinter survey indicating that it was their first year in the business, and the survey also found that 20 percent of the respondents reported a lower winter loss than the previous winter, while 12 percent said bee deaths increased.

Salt Lake Tribune; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)



[Support MW News](#)

In addition to its major funders, MW News receives funding support and donations from hundreds of individuals each year.

Water

[Study finds far more water rights in California than annual runoff rate](#)

A new study done by University of California found that the state had issued water rights to 370 million acre feet of water annually, more than five times the annual average statewide flow of 70 million acre feet.

Los Angeles Times; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Mexico sues company over acid spill from copper mine](#)

The Attorney General for Environmental Protection in Mexico has filed a complaint against the owner of the copper mine in Sonora state where a tailings pond breach sent 10 million gallons of acid-laced water into two rivers that supply water to tens of thousands of residents in Northern Mexico.

Bellingham Herald (AP); August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Federal, state agencies tour Montana creek restoration project](#)

At the regular meeting of the Missoula County Rural Land Managers, which brings together federal, state and local agencies, as well as nonprofits, representatives took a hike along Twin Creek to view a stream restoration project that had been completed in the county's Upper Ninemile area, and then along Martina Creek, where a restoration project is planned.

Missoulian; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

Opinion

[Access must be maintained to Yucca House National Monument in Colorado](#)

The Yucca House National Monument's remote location keeps annual visitor numbers to well under a thousand, but public access must be kept to the 600-room archaeological treasure, and toward that end, the federal government, Colorado, San Juan County and the local landowner across whose land the sole access road runs should work together to ensure that the road remains open.

Durango Herald; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

Beyond the region

[Massive solar farm in California scorches birds mid-air](#)

Workers at the Bright Source Energy solar plant in California's Mohave Desert call the birds that are burned in mid-flight over the massive solar installation "streamers," and plans to expand the plant have been put on hold as federal officials debate what to do about the project, where it's estimated between a few thousand or 28,000 birds die annually.

Christian Science Monitor; August 18

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Nevada company's heat-based algae-to-fuel system ignites interest](#)

Several companies have developed processes for turning algae into fuel, but all are energy intensive, making Nevada-based Algae Systems' "hydrothermal liquefaction" system that not only turns algae into diesel fuel, but also turns municipal sewage used to fertilize the algae into clean water, creates a carbon-heavy residue that can be used as fertilizer and generates valuable credits for advanced biofuels.

New York Times; August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Canadian Transportation Board releases report on derailment disaster](#)

The Canadian Transportation Safety Board released its report on its investigation of last year's train derailment disaster that destroyed nearly all of a small Quebec community's downtown area and killed 47 people and reported 18 factors contributed to the accident and made two recommendations to improve rail safety, including Transport Canada taking a more hands-on approach to rail safety.

Calgary Herald (The Gazette); August 19

[Send this to a friend](#)

Environment:

[Scientists respond to USFWS's decision on wolverines](#)

Economy:

[Montana's jobless rate ticks up in July](#)

Politics:

[Montana U.S. Rep. Daines vows to help wood-products industry](#)

Economy:

[Vesicular stomatitis forces quarantine on 130 ranches in Colorado](#)

Politics:

[Wyoming voters head to the polls for primary election](#)

Community:

[Rising housing costs in S. Alberta cited for increase in food aid](#)

Environment:

[Montana FWP proposes doubling perch limits on Holter Reservoir](#)

[Page 1](#) | [Page 2](#) | [Perspective](#) | [Search](#) | [Send this page to a friend](#) |

[Click here to be removed from this mailing list.](#)